

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244180

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNGA, KS, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN-DPRK RELATIONS

REF: A. CANBERRA 7170; B. USUN 4690; C. SEOUL 7270

1. IN VIEW REFS A AND B, DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO APPROACH GOA TO DELAY OPENING OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA. AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY SEOUL SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE ROKG FROM PUNITIVE ACTIONS IN EVENT NORTH KOREANS DO OPEN MISSION BEFORE UN DEBATE ON KOREA. ANY SUCH KOREAN ACTION WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS IN NEW YORK BY HIGHLIGHTING NORTH KOREAN PRESENCE IN CANBERRA. IT ALSO POSSIBLE AUSTRALIANS WOULD REACT TO KOREAN MOVE BY PUNITIVE ACTIONS OF THEIR OWN.

2. SIMILARLY, WE DUBIOUS ABOUT ATTEMPTING TO USE OPENING OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA AS LEVER TO SECURE GREATER AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK. GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF ROK-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS, WE SUSPECT SUCH AN
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APPROACH WOULD NOT WORK. AND, IN ANY EVENT, WE CANNOT

ASSURE THAT ROKG WILL NOT TAKE SOME COUNTERACTION AGAINST AUSTRALIANS, DESPITE OUR ADVICE.

3. APART FROM THIS, HOWEVER, EMBASSY IN ITS ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA MAY WISH TO REMIND THAT ACTIVE AUSTRALIAN LOBBYING EFFORT IN NEW YORK WOULD HELP

SIGNIFICANTLY TO ENSURE PASSAGE OF FRIENDLY RES AND DEFEAT OF HOSTILE RES. INGERSOLL

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